

Hi my name is _____ and this is the 8th principle minute.

Unitarian Universalist around the country have committed to dismantling racism beginning with their own practices, their identity and their own stories.

Who would have thought Sharon Osborne would have anything to teach us about being anti-racist, yet here we are with a perfect lesson in what NOT to do.

Sharon Osborne, co-host of The Talk, came under fire recently for defending Piers Morgan. The details of her defense are not the point, but rather a statement she made while defending herself on air. She turned to her co-host Sheryl Underwood, who is African American, and demanded “you tell *me*...educate *me*”.

It is not the responsibility of BIPOC to educate White people about racism. That bears repeating; it is not the responsibility of BIPOC to educate White people about racism. It is up to White people to seek the information themselves. The work of educating people about their own racism is difficult and can be emotionally draining. White people demanding - feeling entitled to - hard work from BIPOC is exactly the sort of privilege that must be dismantled. There are enough resources available for White people to educate themselves. For technology-challenged people there are plenty of White people who can provide the necessary reading material.

People who are BIPOC should not feel obligated to educate White people about racism. Self-care is always important, this need actually increases when in a normally safe space in which racism is being discussed because unintentional harm from trusted friends can be far more damaging than intentional harm from strangers. The UUA has some strategies for “When Times Get Tough” on the Hospitality and Inclusion page under Widening the Circle of Concern.

If an individual who identifies as BIPOC decides to take up the task of educating a White person about racism, that White person is obligated to listen and accept the lesson without challenging it.

If we add the 8th principle to the 7, we need to look at our own practices, identity, and stories with a new lens to dismantle the racism in ourselves and our institutions. Together we will continue to educate ourselves and discuss what it means to develop a culture of being accountably anti-racist.